

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair has already shown its true colors when, earlier this year, they refused to broadcast Ted Koppel's Nightline when he read the names and showed pictures of all our soldiers killed in Iraq. They elected to try to diminish the true costs of this unnecessary, pre-emptive war to the families of the fallen troops and the country. Our local ABC affiliate elected to broadcast the show and I was moved to tears seeing the faces of our brave fallen soldiers.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.